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10/700,342	11/03/2003	Bobby Jose	1959-12	5281

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EXAMINER	
HO, CHUONG T	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2476	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/700,342	JOSE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	CHUONG T. HO	2476	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *22 August 2011 and 09 May 2011*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on _____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.

4)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

5)☒ Claim(s) *9-26 and 107-115* is/are pending in the application.

5a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

6)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

7)☒ Claim(s) *9-26,107-115* is/are rejected.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

9)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

10)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

11)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to Election/Restriction filed 08/22/2011 and the amendment filed 05/09/2011.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 9-26, 107-108, and 109-115 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 9-20, 107, 108, 109, 111, 114-115 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nevo et al. (Hereafter, Nevo '961) Pub. No.: US 2003/0214961 A1 in view of Griffith et al. (Hereafter, Griffith '104) Pub. No.: US 2002/0031104 A1.

Regarding claim 9, Nevo '961 teaches an access station (i.e., wireless device 100) [see Figure 1 and Abstract and Paragraphs 0009 & 0010 & 0011 & 0053 & 0054

&0055] for wireless communications, the access station (i.e., wireless device 100) [see Figure 1] comprising:

signal transmission/reception coordination logic (i.e., coordinating transmitting and receiving operations) [see Fig. 1 and Abstract and Paragraphs 0010 & 0011] that is capable of ascertaining that an access point of the plurality of access points is receiving a signal and that is adapted to restrain at least one other access point of the plurality of access points from transmitting another signal responsive to the ascertaining that the access point is receiving the signal (i.e., ascertaining the transceiver 102a is receiving a signal and that is adapted to suspend transceiver 102b from signal transmission in order to avoid interference) [see Figure 1 and Paragraphs 0009 & 0010 & 0011 & 0053 & 0054 &0055].

However, Adachi '752 does not explicitly teach the access station comprising: a wireless input/output (I/O) unit that is configured to establish a plurality of access points.

Griffith '104, in the same or similar fields of endeavor, teaches access point comprising: a wireless input/output (I/O) unit that is configured to establish a plurality of access terminals (i.e., the wireless input/output interface 870) [see Fig. 7 & Fig. 8 & Paragraphs 0090 & 0099].

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify wireless device 100 of Nevo '961 in view of Griffith '104 because Griffith '104 suggests that it improves data throughput, the size of wireless segment can

be determined based on status condition associated with the wireless link, such as bit errors, framing errors, signal strength, signal-to-noise ratios) [see Paragraph 0006].

Regarding claim 10, Nevo '961 and Griffith '104 teach the limitations of claim 9 above.

However, Nevo '961 does not explicitly teach wherein the plurality of access points established by the wireless I/O unit are co-located.

Griffith '104, in the same or similar fields of endeavor, teaches wherein the plurality of access terminals established by the wireless I/O unit are co-located (i.e., the wireless input/output interface 870) [see Fig. 7 & Fig. 8 & Paragraphs 0090 & 0099].

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify wireless device 100 of Nevo '961 in view of Griffith '104 because Griffith '104 suggests that it improves data throughput, the size of wireless segment can be determined based on status condition associated with the wireless link, such as bit errors, framing errors, signal strength, signal-to-noise ratios) [see Paragraph 0006].

Regarding claim 11, Nevo '961 and Griffith '104 teach the limitations of claim 9 above.

Nevo '961 further teaches wherein the wireless unit operates in accordance with at least on IEEE 802.11 standard (i.e., MAC frame of IEEE 802.11) [see Paragraph 0052 and Claim 8].

However, Nevo '961 does not explicitly teach the wireless I/O unit.

Griffith '104, in the same or similar fields of endeavor, teaches access point comprising: a wireless input/output (I/O) unit that is configured to establish a plurality of

access terminals (i.e., the wireless input/output interface 870) [see Fig. 7 & Fig. 8 & Paragraphs 0090 & 0099].

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify wireless device 100 of Nevo '961 in view of Griffith '104 because Griffith '104 suggests that it improves data throughput, the size of wireless segment can be determined based on status condition associated with the wireless link, such as bit errors, framing errors, signal strength, signal-to-noise ratios) [see Paragraph 0006].

Regarding claim 12, Nevo '961 and Griffith '104 teach the limitations of claim 9 above.

However, Nevo '961 does not teach wherein the signal received by the access point comprises at least one up linked packet.

Griffith '104, in the same or similar fields of endeavor, teaches wherein the signal received by the access point comprises at least one up linked packet [see Paragraphs 0014 & 0053].

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify wireless device 100 of Nevo '961 in view of Griffith '104 because Griffith '104 suggests that it improves data throughput, the size of wireless segment can be determined based on status condition associated with the wireless link, such as bit errors, framing errors, signal strength, signal-to-noise ratios) [see Paragraph 0006].

Regarding claim 13, Nevo '961 and Griffith '104 teach the limitations of claim 9 above.

However, Nevo '961 does not explicitly teach wherein the signal received by the access point comprises at least a portion of an uplinked packet.

Griffith '104, in the same or similar fields of endeavor, teaches wherein the signal received by the access point comprises at least a portion of an uplinked packet [see Paragraphs 0014 & 0053].

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify wireless device 100 of Nevo '961 in view of Griffith '104 because Griffith '104 suggests that it improves data throughput, the size of wireless segment can be determined based on status condition associated with the wireless link, such as bit errors, framing errors, signal strength, signal-to-noise ratios) [see Paragraph 0006].

Regarding claim 14, Nevo '961 further teaches wherein the at least a portion of the uplinked packet comprises at least part of a preamble of the up linked packet (i.e., the MAC frame specified by IEEE801.11 is formed of a MAC header of the maximum of 30 bytes) [see Paragraph 0052].

Regarding claim 15, Nevo '961 further teaches wherein the signal transmission /reception coordination logic is further adapted to restrain at least two other access points of the plurality of access points from transmitting signals responsive to the ascertaining that the access point of the plurality of access points is receiving the signal

(i.e., ascertaining the transceiver 102a is receiving a signal and that is adapted to suspend transceiver 102b from signal transmission in order to avoid interference) [see Figure 1 and Paragraphs 0009 & 0010 & 0011 & 0053 & 0054 &0055].

Regarding claim 16, Nevo '961 further teaches wherein the signal transmission /reception coordination logic is further adapted to restrain the at least one other access point of the plurality of access points from transmitting a downlink signal responsive to the ascertaining that the access point of the plurality of access points is receiving the signal (i.e., coordinating the transmitting and receiving operations) [see Paragraphs 0010 & 0011].

Regarding claim 17, Nevo '961 teaches wherein the signal transmission/reception coordination logic is further adapted to restrain the at least one other access point of the plurality of access points from transmitting the other signal on a first channel responsive to the ascertaining that the access point of the plurality of access points is receiving the signal on a second different channel (i.e., ascertaining the transceiver 102a is receiving a signal and that is adapted to suspend transceiver 102b from signal transmission in order to avoid interference) [see Figure 1 and Paragraphs 0009 & 0010 & 0011 & 0053 & 0054 &0055].

Regarding claim 18, Nevo '961 further teaches wherein the signal transmission/reception coordination logic is further capable of monitoring the plurality of

access points (i.e., coordinating the transmitting and receiving operations) [see Paragraphs 0010 & 0011].

Regarding claim 19, Nevo '961 further teaches wherein the signal transmission/reception coordination logic is capable of monitoring the plurality of access points to detect received signals (i.e., coordinating the transmitting and receiving operations) [see Paragraphs 0010 & 0011].

Regarding claim 20, Nevo '961 further teaches wherein the signal transmission/reception coordination logic is further adapted to restrain the at least one other access point of the plurality of access points while the access point is receiving the signal (i.e., coordinating the transmitting and receiving operations) [see Paragraphs 0010 & 0011].

Regarding claim 107, Nevo '961 teaches an access station for wireless communications in a wireless system, the access station comprising:
signal transmission/reception coordination logic that is capable of ascertaining that a first access point (i.e., coordinating the transmitting and receiving operations) [see Paragraphs 0010 & 0011] of the plurality of access points is receiving a first signal on a first channel and that is adapted to restrain a second access point (i.e., ascertaining the transceiver 102a is receiving a signal and that is adapted to suspend transceiver 102b from signal transmission in order to avoid interference) [see Figure 1 and Paragraphs

0009 & 0010 & 0011 & 0053 & 0054 &0055] of the plurality of access points from transmitting a second signal on a second channel based on the ascertaining that the first access point is receiving the first signal with an ongoing transmission on a third channel to prevent distortion to other signals being wirelessly communicated in the wireless system [see Figure 1 and Paragraphs 0009 & 0010 & 0011 & 0053 & 0054 &0055] .

However, Adachi '752 does not explicitly teach the access station comprising: a wireless input/output (I/O) unit that is configured to establish a plurality of access points.

Griffith '104, in the same or similar fields of endeavor, teaches access point comprising: a wireless input/output (I/O) unit that is configured to establish a plurality of access terminals (i.e., the wireless input/output interface 870) [see Fig. 7 & Fig. 8 & Paragraphs 0090 & 0099].

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify wireless device 100 of Nevo '961 in view of Griffith '104 because Griffith '104 suggests that it improves data throughput, the size of wireless segment can be determined based on status condition associated with the wireless link, such as bit errors, framing errors, signal strength, signal-to-noise ratios) [see Paragraph 0006].

Regarding claim 108, Nevo '961 further teaches wherein the prevented distortion comprises inter-modulation distortion [see Figure 1 and Paragraphs 0009 & 0010 & 0011 & 0053 & 0054 &0055].

Regarding claim 109, Adachi '752 teaches an access station for wireless communications In a wireless system, the access station comprising: signal transmission/reception coordination logic (i.e., coordinating the transmitting and receiving operations) [see Paragraphs 0010 & 0011] that is capable of restraining transmission from the at least one access point (i.e., ascertaining the transceiver 102a is receiving a signal and that is adapted to suspend transceiver 102b from signal transmission in order to avoid interference) [see Figure 1 and Paragraphs 0009 & 0010 & 0011 & 0053 & 0054 &0055] when another access point (i.e., ascertaining the transceiver 102a is receiving a signal and that is adapted to suspend transceiver 102b from signal transmission in order to avoid interference) [see Figure 1 and Paragraphs 0009 & 0010 & 0011 & 0053 & 0054 &0055] is expecting a short- term response to a frame that was transmitted by the other access point (i.e., ascertaining the transceiver 102a is receiving a signal and that is adapted to suspend transceiver 102b from signal transmission in order to avoid interference) [see Figure 1 and Paragraphs 0009 & 0010 & 0011 & 0053 & 0054 &0055].

However, Nevo '961 does not explicitly teach the access station comprising: a wireless input/output (I/O) unit that is configured to establish at least one access point.

Griffith '104, in the same or similar fields of endeavor, teaches access point comprising: a wireless input/output (I/O) unit that is configured to establish a plurality of

access terminals (i.e., the wireless input/output interface 870) [see Fig. 7 & Fig. 8 & Paragraphs 0090 & 0099].

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify wireless device 100 of Nevo '961 in view of Griffith '104 because Griffith '104 suggests that it improves data throughput, the size of wireless segment can be determined based on status condition associated with the wireless link, such as bit errors, framing errors, signal strength, signal-to-noise ratios) [see Paragraph 0006].

Regarding claim 111, Nevo '961 and Griffith '104 teach the limitations of claim 109 above.

However, Nevo '961 does not explicitly teach wherein the other access point is also established by the wireless I/O unit of the access station.

Griffith '104, in the same or similar fields of endeavor, teaches wherein the other access point is also established by the wireless I/O unit of the access station (i.e., the wireless input/output interface 870) [see Fig. 7 & Fig. 8 & Paragraphs 0090 & 0099].

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify wireless device 100 of Nevo '961 in view of Griffith '104 because Griffith '104 suggests that it improves data throughput, the size of wireless segment can be determined based on status condition associated with the wireless link, such as bit errors, framing errors, signal strength, signal-to-noise ratios) [see Paragraph 0006].

Regarding claim 114, Nevo '961 further teaches wherein the at least one access point and the other access point are operating on different channels [see Figure 1 and Paragraphs 0009 & 0010 & 0011 & 0053 & 0054 &0055].

Regarding claim 115, Nevo '961 further teaches wherein the different channels are adjacent [see Figure 1 and Paragraphs 0009 & 0010 & 0011 & 0053 & 0054 &0055].

5. Claims 21-26, 110, 112 -113 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nevo et al. (Hereafter, Nevo '961) Pub. No.: US 2003/0214961 A1 in view of Griffith et al. (Hereafter, Griffith '104) Pub. No.: US 2002/0031104 A1, and further in view of Adachi et al. (Hereafter, Adachi '167) Patent No.: US 6,983,167 B2.

Regarding claim 20, Nevo '961 and Griffith '104 teach the limitations of claim 9 above.

However, Nevo '961 and Griffith '104 do not explicitly teach wherein each access point of the plurality of access points corresponds to a communication beam of a plurality of communication beams that emanate from the access station.

Adachi '167, in the same or similar fields of endeavor, teaches wherein each access point of the plurality of access points corresponds to a communication beam of a plurality of communication beams that emanate from the access station (i.e., access point corresponds to a communication beam of a plurality of communication beams that emanate from wireless station 4-1, 4-2, 4-3) [see Col. 6, Lines 24-32, Lines 33-41].

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify combined system (Nevo '961 - Griffith '104) and further in view of Adachi '167 because Adachi '167 suggests that It is an object of the present invention to provide a wireless communication system and wireless station by which communication between an access point and plural stations can be efficiently performed even when SDMA is used with CSMA [see Adachi '167, Col. 2, Lines 6-11].

Regarding claim 22, Nevo '961 and Griffith '104 teach the limitations of claim 9 above.

However, Nevo '961 and Griffith '104 do not explicitly teach wherein each access point of the plurality of access points is associated with a medium access controller/baseband unit pair.

Adachi '167, in the same or similar fields of endeavor, teaches wherein each access point of the plurality of access points is associated with a medium access controller/baseband unit pair [see Col. 6, Lines 24-32, Lines 33-41].

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify combined system (Nevo '961 - Griffith '104) and further in view of Adachi '167 because Adachi '167 suggests that It is an object of the present invention to provide a wireless communication system and wireless station by which communication between an access point and plural stations can be efficiently performed even when SDMA is used with CSMA [see Adachi '167, Col. 2, Lines 6-11].

Regarding claim 23, Nevo '961 and Griffith '104 teach the limitations of claim 9 above.

However, Nevo '961 and Griffith '104 do not explicitly teach wherein the signal transmission/reception coordination logic comprises medium access controller coordination logic.

Adachi '167, in the same or similar fields of endeavor, teaches wherein the signal transmission/reception coordination logic comprises medium access controller coordination logic (i.e., MAC) [see Fig. 5A, Fig. 5B, and Col. 7, Lines 52-67 and Col. 8, Lines 1-30].

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify combined system (Nevo '961 - Griffith '104) and further in view of Adachi '167 because Adachi '167 suggests that It is an object of the present invention to provide a wireless communication system and wireless station by which communication between an access point and plural stations can be efficiently performed even when SDMA is used with CSMA [see Adachi '167, Col. 2, Lines 6-11].

Regarding claim 24, Nevo '961 and Griffith '104 teach the limitations of claim 9 above.

However, Nevo '961 and Griffith '104 do not explicitly teach wherein the medium access controller coordination logic is physically distributed to link two or more access stations.

Adachi '167, in the same or similar fields of endeavor, teaches wherein the medium access controller coordination logic is physically distributed to link two or more access stations (i.e., MAC) [see Fig. 5A, Fig. 5B, and Col. 7, Lines 52-67 and Col. 8, Lines 1-30].

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify combined system (Nevo '961 - Griffith '104) and further in view of Adachi '167 because Adachi '167 suggests that It is an object of the present invention to provide a wireless communication system and wireless station by which communication between an access point and plural stations can be efficiently performed even when SDMA is used with CSMA [see Adachi '167, Col. 2, Lines 6-11].

Regarding claim 25, Nevo '961 and Griffith '104 teach the limitations of claim 9 above.

However, Nevo '961 and Griffith '104 do not explicitly teach wherein the signal transmission/reception coordination logic operates at a baseband level .

Adachi '167, in the same or similar fields of endeavor, teaches wherein the signal transmission/reception coordination logic operates at a baseband level (i.e., wireless frequency (RF), base band or intermediate frequency (IF)) [see Col. 5, Lines 56-67].

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify combined system (Nevo '961 - Griffith '104) and further in view of Adachi '167 because Adachi '167 suggests that It is an object of the present invention to provide a wireless communication system and wireless station by which

communication between an access point and plural stations can be efficiently performed even when SDMA is used with CSMA [see Adachi '167, Col. 2, Lines 6-11].

Regarding claim 26, Nevo '961 and Griffith '104 teach the limitations of claim 9 above.

However, Nevo '961 and Griffith '104 do not explicitly teach wherein the signal transmission/reception coordination logic operates at a radio frequency (RF) level (i.e., wireless frequency (RF), base band or intermediate frequency (IF)) [see Col. 5, Lines 56-67].

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify combined system (Nevo '961 - Griffith '104) and further in view of Adachi '167 because Adachi '167 suggests that It is an object of the present invention to provide a wireless communication system and wireless station by which communication between an access point and plural stations can be efficiently performed even when SDMA is used with CSMA [see Adachi '167, Col. 2, Lines 6-11].

Regarding claim 110, Nevo '961 and Griffith '104 teach the limitations of claim 109 above.

However, Nevo '961 and Griffith '104 do not explicitly teach wherein the short-term response to the frame comprises an immediate response to the frame.

Adachi '167, in the same or similar fields of endeavor, teaches wherein the short-term response to the frame comprises an immediate response to the frame (i.e., response frame) [see Col. 13, Lines 5-30].

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify combined system (Nevo '961 - Griffith '104) and further in view of Adachi '167 because Adachi '167 suggests that It is an object of the present invention to provide a wireless communication system and wireless station by which communication between an access point and plural stations can be efficiently performed even when SDMA is used with CSMA [see Adachi '167, Col. 2, Lines 6-11].

Regarding claim 112, Nevo '961 and Griffith '104 teach the limitations of claim 109 above.

However, Nevo '961 and Griffith '104 do not teach wherein the other access point is established by a different access station.

Adachi '167, in the same or similar fields of endeavor, teaches wherein the other access point is established by a different access station [see Col. 5, Lines 56-67].

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify combined system (Nevo '961 - Griffith '104) and further in view of Adachi '167 because Adachi '167 suggests that It is an object of the present invention to provide a wireless communication system and wireless station by which communication between an access point and plural stations can be efficiently performed even when SDMA is used with CSMA [see Adachi '167, Col. 2, Lines 6-11].

Regarding claim 113, Nevo '961 and Griffith '104 teach the limitations of claim 109 above.

However, Nevo '961 and Griffith '104 do not teach wherein the at least one access point and the other access point are operating on a same channel.

Adachi '167, in the same or similar fields of endeavor, teaches wherein the at least one access point and the other access point are operating on a same channel [see Col. 5, Lines 56-67].

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify combined system (Nevo '961 - Griffith '104) and further in view of Adachi '167 because Adachi '167 suggests that It is an object of the present invention to provide a wireless communication system and wireless station by which communication between an access point and plural stations can be efficiently performed even when SDMA is used with CSMA [see Adachi '167, Col. 2, Lines 6-11].

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHUONG T. HO whose telephone number is (571)272-3133. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sheikh Ayaz can be reached on (571) 272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/CHUONG T HO/
Examiner, Art Unit 2476